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E.O. 12065: EDS 9/22/85 (PLATIN, BRUCE A.) OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, US, AF
SUBJ: (C) KHALQIS POSSIBLY WAVING OLIVE BRANCH TOWARD WASHINGTON?

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)
2. ON SEPTEMBER 22, TWO AFGHAN OFFICIALS, ONE FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE OTHER FROM THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, TOLD A USAID TCM THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT HAFIZULLAH AMIN INTENDS TO IMPROVE AFGHANISTAN'S BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. AMONG SPECIFIC MEASURES BEING CONSIDERED BY AMIN, ACCORDING TO THE TWO OFFICIALS, IS AN OFFICIAL LETTER OF APOLOGY OVER THE FEBRUARY 14 DEATH OF AMBASSADOR DUBS..
3. COMMENT: THE TWO AFGHANS MAY HAVE INTENDED THAT THEIR MESSAGE REACH USG EARS, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE SUBSTANTIATING INFORMATION AT THIS TIME ABOUT AMIN'S CURRENT ATTITUDE TOWARD US, THE LOCAL SOVIET EMBASSY IS VERY AWARE THAT THE DUBS CASE REMAINS A MAJOR IMPEDIMENT IN U.S.-AFGHAN RELATIONS. IF THE SOVIETS ARE INTERESTED IN UPGRADING THE IMAGE OF AMIN, AS WE BELIEVE THEY ARE, THEY MIGHT BE ADVISING HIM TO IMPROVE HIS RELATIONS WITH NON-SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.
- AMSTUTZ

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